

KEONE`ULA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
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School Number: (808) 689-1380

October 9, 2012

The Honorable Ikaika Anderson, Chair
and Members of the Planning Committee
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Bill 65-Adopting the Revised `Ewa Development Plan

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The Honorable Ikaika Anderson, Chair and Members:

Good morning, Chair Anderson. I am Eileen Hirota, Principal of Keone`ula Elementary School located in the Ocean Pointe residential subdivision, a HASEKO (Ewa) Inc. Ewa Beach, Hawaii development. I am submitting this testimony in support of HASEKO (Ewa), Inc.'s proposal to develop a recreational lagoon. The development of this lagoon would not prevent the future development of a marina.

As is characteristic of HASEKO's approach to the development of any major project, they have commissioned an economic study by Paul Brewbaker of TZ Economics to review the feasibility of the development of this lagoon. The results of this study indicate no negative economic impact on the community nor negative impact on the sustainability of economic expansion. Further, their communications with the various stake holders, waterfront designers, potential hotel operators, and very importantly, current and future residents, neighbors and community organizations indicate excitement and positive feedback on the development of the recreational lagoon.

HASEKO is committing to providing public access to this lagoon, to the promenade, as well as access to cultural and archaeological sites and commercial activity areas. This recreational lagoon will not only provide a place for families, friends and visitors to enjoy, it will also generate employment opportunities in the `Ewa region.

Why should an elementary school principal become so excited about the development of this lagoon, you may ask? First and foremost, I am an educator, thus, the promotion and the development of life-long learners among all of our students is paramount to my purpose as an educator. Students do not learn simply by reading; they learn by doing, seeing and touching. The possibility of how students can view the development of a lagoon in their immediate environment, how they can understand the significance of this

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development and how it contributes to their lifestyle is exciting and truly a "hands-on" approach to learning for them.

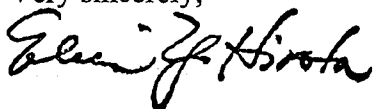
The entire project, the lagoon, the promenade, the cultural center, all contribute to real-life learning. And this development would become a reality within the next four years, not twenty years from now! I easily envision a Kupuna working with our students and tying in the past with the present and with the future...a hands-on approach to learning.

True life-long learners take in the environment and infuse this environment into their readings. Words become realities, realities become dreams, and dreams create future leaders. And this, for me as an educator, is rewarding!

I fully support HASEKO (Ewa) Inc.'s proposal for the development of a recreational lagoon. They have commissioned a study whose results have been, simply stated, positive. HASEKO's revised proposal does not make substantive changes to the Department of Planning and Permitting's proposed amendment. The requested 'Ewa Development Plan amendments do not conflict with the City's General Plan, Section VII Physical Development and Urban Design Objective C Policy 6, which calls for the 'Ewa Marina Community to provide "a major marina and a related mari-time commercial center containing light-industrial, commercial, and visitor accommodation uses."

Basically, this revised proposal to develop a recreational lagoon contributes to the overall value of the 'Ewa region. As stated by HASEKO, "Oahu and Ewa Beach will have a recreational resource that is unprecedented in Hawaii."

Very sincerely,



Eileen Y. Hirota, Principal
Keone'ula Elementary School